

board of directors are taking leadership roles in one of Northern Virginia's longest standing volunteer fire departments. The O.W.L. Volunteer Fire Department was created to address the need for organized fire response capabilities in the growing suburbs of Northern Virginia. Organized in 1938 and chartered in 1940, the Department officially formed to become the only fire department between Fredericksburg and Alexandria. In the subsequent decades O.W.L. has expanded to staff three stations and provide emergency medical services.

The members of O.W.L. are dedicated community volunteers, and the 2015 officers and directors will be diligent stewards of this tradition of service. The 250 active O.W.L. members answer 14,000 calls and serve 60,000 people each year. Their job is demanding and the hours are long, but these brave men and women are driven by their dedication to public safety and the communities that they serve. We would all do well to follow their example.

I congratulate and commend the following 2015 incoming officers:

Department Chief: James F. McAllister

Fire Assistant Chiefs: Kurt Bolland, Michael Clark, Steve Godin, Wayne Haight, and Dave Williams

EMS Assistant Chief: Edward A. Craig

Fire Captains: Jonathan Baldwin, Joshua Culp, Tony Carroll, Tim LeClerc, Ryan Williams, and Justin Witt

EMS Captain: Diana Ondra

Fire Lieutenants: Lindsey Blasius, Jesus Castro, Mark Chandler, Jon Colpitts, Jonathan Holland, Billy Moore, Kody Perry, and Stewart Young

EMS Lieutenants: Chad Fritz, Tammy Hill, Aaron Hope, Cynthia Thackwray, and Sandra Williams

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these remarkable volunteers on their new leadership positions, and in thanking all the members of the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department for the vital service they provide to the Prince William County community.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANSAR SHRINERS OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ansar Shriners of Springfield, Illinois on their 100th anniversary. To date, they are the seventeenth largest chapter of over two hundred Shriner chapters worldwide. The Shriners are a fraternity that believes in brotherhood, family, leadership, and giving back. They are dedicated to providing assistance to those in need.

Their philanthropic efforts enable the Shriner hospital network, containing nineteen children hospitals and three burn institutes, to provide care at no cost to their patients. The Shriner hospital network has cared for over one million children since its inception, providing expert pediatric specialty care regardless of their ability to pay.

The Ansar Shriners of Springfield exemplify the importance and power of community serv-

ice. I thank them for their continued support of the less fortunate and congratulate them on their 100th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RECOVER ACT (REDUCING THE EFFECTS OF THE CYBERATTACK ON OPM VICTIMS EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2015)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Reducing the Effects of the Cyberattack on OPM Victims Emergency Response Act of 2015 (the RECOVER Act), a bill to require the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to provide complimentary and comprehensive identity protection coverage to all individuals whose personally identifiable information was compromised during recent OPM data breaches. Senator BEN CARDIN (D-MD) has introduced the companion bill in the Senate. Yesterday, OPM reported that more than 21.5 million current and former federal employees have had their personal information compromised in a second OPM data breach, five times more than the 4.2 million already reported, for a grand total of 25.7 million federal employees and retirees. OPM said that the 21.5 million individuals whose background check records were compromised would receive only three years of credit monitoring and identity theft protection services and \$1 million in loss coverage, while the other 4.2 million individuals whose personnel records were compromised would receive 18 months of credit monitoring and \$1 million in loss coverage. In light of the scope of OPM's data breach and the limited protection that is proposed, I, along with my House colleagues CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, DON BEYER, DONNA EDWARDS, C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, GERALD CONNOLLY, and JOHN DELANEY introduce a bill that would provide free lifetime identity theft protection coverage that includes identity theft insurance for losses up to \$5 million. This protection is particularly necessary since the breach was discovered a year after hackers had already infiltrated OPM's system.

OPM's proposed protection would not protect current and former federal workers if hackers simply waited for a period of years before exploiting the stolen identities. However, our bill would give current and former federal employees some peace of mind.

The RECOVER Act is necessary to reduce the angst of our dedicated public servants resulting from this entire ordeal. OPM failed to protect our current and former federal employees. It follows that the government must do the right thing to make up for its mistake.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation that is vital to the future and health of our Nation's citizens and ecosystem.

This thoughtful legislation is the culmination of the hard work of my dedicated colleagues who have sought out and engaged in public conversations with patients, innovators, providers, regulators and researchers about how to move advances in science and medicine into new therapies.

This outreach has garnered the critical input and support of more than 370 patient and physician groups, state and local organizations, cancer centers, and research and life sciences.

I'm proud to be one of the cosponsors of H.R. 6, which represents a new national effort to find treatment and cures for thousands of unknown and rare diseases.

Looking to the various policies this legislation aims to address, it is important to highlight the commendable objectives and that will not only accelerate the discovery, development and delivery of new treatments and cures for thousands of serious and rare diseases, but it will also open the doors of innovation and the growth of health care system by enhancing and enriching the medical field for all Americans.

The most ambitious action calls for \$10 billion in mandatory funding to be delivered over the next five years to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

NIH is part of our nation's top ranked educational research institutions in the world.

In order to maintain our global competitiveness in the biomedical field, we must invest in the industries that guarantee economic prosperity for our current and future economies.

It has been estimated that every \$1 of NIH funding generates about \$2.21 in local economic growth, and, in 2012, NIH funded research supported an estimated 402,000 jobs all across the U.S.

The bill's funding for NIH would provide for an annual 3% increases in the NIH budget, which has been stagnant for the past few years and which desperately needs more funding to capitalize on emerging scientific insights.

This increased funding not only aims to continue the sustainability of our economy but it also supports our President's initiative to provide more resources to the biomedical field.

The 21st Century Cure Act supports the President's Precision Medicine Initiative, which would advance a new model of participant-centered research to accelerate biomedical discoveries and provide clinicians with new tools and therapies tailored to individual patients' needs.

The Obama Administration believes they can build on their progress in improving the drug development and approval process by: incorporating patients' voices into the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) decision-making; encouraging the development and qualification of reliable biomarkers to accelerate work on important new therapies; and reducing barriers to initiating medical device trials.

In furtherance of this initiative, H.R. 6 allows for the creation of an "Innovation Fund" through the National Institute of Health.

This "Innovation Fund" is a welcome effort because it promotes the maintenance of the best biomedical workforce in the world and help to increase the diversity of the biomedical workforce.

In particular, the \$2 billion provided for the Innovation Fund, will not only increase the number of the research projects it supports but it also increases the cap for NIH's loan repayment programs.

This would include a repayment program for clinical scientists who do research in health disparities and for clinical scientist from disadvantaged backgrounds, from \$35,000 per year to \$50,000 per year plus a yearly inflation for adjustment.

With the support of H.R. 6, underrepresented communities and those with disadvantaged backgrounds from across the country can undoubtedly provide the future researchers and workers of the biomedical workforce.

The Journal on STEM Education reported in 2011 that only 8.34% of the STEM doctorates awarded in 2006 were given to underrepresented minorities, despite making up approximately 28% of the U.S. population.

Furthermore, GAO noted that while the percentage of underrepresented minorities nationwide increased from 13% to 19% from 1994 to 2003, the total number of STEM doctorates awarded to the same group dropped during this period from 8,335 to 7,310.

In response, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) created the Minority Opportunities in Research (MORE) Division and similar academic intervention programs.

The MORE programs are comprised of four primary components: research experience, mentoring and advisement, supplemental instruction and workshops, and financial support.

In 2007, NIGMS' annual budget was \$1.9 billion, of which nearly \$126 million was spent on its MORE programs.

This amount includes the Minority Biomedical Research Support-Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (MBRS-RISE) program, the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC), Post-baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP), and the Bridges to the Baccalaureate and Bridges to the PhD programs.

The amount of funds dedicated to these programs reflects the commitment by the science and research community to the goals of the MORE Division in addressing this problem.

Increased funding set forth in H.R. 6 will only strengthen NIH's focus on diversifying the biomedical workforce by requiring NIH to focus on ensuring participation from scientists from underrepresented communities.

In addition to addressing the needs of underrepresented communities, H.R. 6 also calls for specific action to increase representation of racial minorities.

The 21st Century Cures Act acknowledges that there are disturbing statistics on the low numbers of African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans pursuing academic qualification and participating in scientific research.

Under H.R. 6, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities will necessarily include strategies for increasing representation of minority communities in its strategic plan.

I am proud to say that H.R. 6 includes the Jackson Lee Amendment, which makes a good bill even better by ensuring that the national goals of finding and bringing more cures and treatments to patients and strengthening the biomedical innovation ecosystem in the United States is aided by an expanding pool of diverse and talented medical researchers.

Specifically, the Jackson Lee Amendment provides: The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall conduct outreach to historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Native American colleges, and rural colleges to ensure that health professionals from underrepresented populations are aware of research opportunities under this Act.

Many racial health disparities stem from lack of access to effective test, treatments and cures for illnesses that have devastating consequences for African American, Hispanic and Native American populations.

For example:

1. African-Americans represent 12% of the U.S. population but only 5% of clinical trial participants.

2. Hispanics make up 16% of the population but only 1% of clinical trial participants.

3. Women are under-represented in cardiovascular device trials, which have 67% male participation.

The most significant barriers limiting clinical participation are race, age, and sex of participants:

1. Women and minority patients are more difficult to recruit.

2. Women and minority physicians have less experience and are relatively more costly to engage.

3. Minority patients with limited English proficiency can require costly translation services. Physicians are the gateway to the patient.

Increasing diversity of those conducting research will have implications on the types of conditions that are researched and the participants in clinical trials that are seeking answers to illnesses like lupus, triple negative breast cancer, and sickle cell disease that can be difficult to detect, treat and cure.

Certain medical illnesses have been known to have higher prevalence in certain demographic groups, including type II diabetes, lupus, sickle cell anemia, and Triple Negative Breast Cancer for which African Americans are more than twice as likely to be diagnosed on average.

Lupus, triple negative breast cancer and sickle cell disease are of particular concern because they are often difficult to diagnose and disproportionately impact persons of color and especially women.

In particular, Lupus is a chronic, complex and prevalent autoimmune disease that affects more than 1.5 million Americans. Yet, Lupus is one of America's least recognized major diseases.

More than 90% of lupus sufferers are women, mostly young women between the ages of 15 to 44, and women of color are two to three times more at risk for lupus than Caucasians.

Triple negative breast cancer also disproportionately impacts younger women, African American women, Hispanic/Latina women, and women with a "BRCA₁" genetic mutation, which is prevalent in Jewish women.

More than 30% of all breast cancer diagnoses in African American are of the triple negative variety, and African American women

are far more susceptible to this dangerous subtype than white or Hispanic women.

Additionally, there are about 2 million people that carry the sickle cell trait and with about 100,000 having the disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sickle cell trait is common among African Americans and occurs in about 1 in 12, and sickle cell disease occurs in about 1 out of every 500 African-American births, compared to about 1 out of every 36,000 Hispanic-American births.

Treatments for Lupus, triple negative breast cancer and sickle cell disease are not progressing as quickly as desired by patients, researchers, and policy makers.

We must support the advancement of legislation that will allow for the remediation and end of health care disparities and the promotion of research parity for diseases such as lupus, triple negative breast cancer, sickle cell disease, and countless other rare and serious diseases.

Race and ethnicity have also been shown to affect the effectiveness of and response to certain drugs, such as anti-hypertensive therapies in the treatment of hypertension in African Americans and anti-depressants in Hispanics.

Increased diversity in research trials could help researchers find better, more precise ways to fight diseases that disproportionately impact certain populations, and may be important for the safe and effective use of new therapies.

As one of the most diverse cities in the country, Houston is the 4th largest city in the United States and the 5th most populated metropolitan area in the nation.

Houston is home to the largest medical complex in the world—the Texas Medical Center, which provides clinical health care, research and education at its 54 institutions.

The University of Houston, ranked number three out of all other colleges and universities in Texas, is an example of a premier institution that can produce students with advanced STEM degrees who would be able to join a progressing biomedical field.

Another important requirement of H.R. 6 is that it would require the National Institutes of Health to publically report the number of children by race and gender who participate in NIH funded clinical trials.

This legislation would help ensure that children of all races are adequately represented in clinical trials and that we can determine the safety and effectiveness of drugs on children of all demographic backgrounds.

With 10,000 known diseases, 7,000 of which are rare, and treatments for only 500 of them—clear there is much work to do.

Medical research saves lives and improves the quality of life for millions of Americans because the government provides a steady and reliable commitment to basic research into cures for debilitating and deadly diseases.

Given the array of commendable initiatives, H.R. 6 is a necessary piece of legislation that will accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of promising new treatments and cures for all patients while investing in our nation's ability to maintain the best and most diverse biomedical workforce in the world.

Mr. Chair, I call for the support of all of my colleagues in ensuring the passage of the important legislation.

CONGRATULATING FESTUS HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS BRONZE MEDAL AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Festus High School on its Bronze Medal Award as a top Missouri High School from U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Festus High School for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE 2015 NATIONAL CAPITAL "A CINDERELLA BALL" AND THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOUSE, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2015 National Capital "A Cinderella Ball" and the tenth anniversary of The House, Inc.

Founded in 2005, The House, Inc. is a nationally recognized youth development program and offers out-of-school programs for pre-teens and teens in the greater Washington metropolitan region. Named by the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington as "One of the Best," The House ensures that our youth are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to become future leaders.

The House, Inc. is also the founder of the National Capital "A Cinderella Ball," which has been held annually in Washington, D.C., since 2006. The Ball, which honors military families whose children are affected by a disability or life-threatening illness, provides the opportunity for children who are sometimes sidelined from social events to enjoy a formal event featuring dinner, entertainment, and awards presentation. This is a moving and rewarding evening for these students and their families, and it is entirely organized by teen members of The House, Inc. Student Leadership Center.

This year The House, Inc. Student Leadership Center is honored to have the First Lady of the United States of America, Michelle Obama, serving as Honorary Chair of the Ball. Alongside the First Lady, former Secretary of State, Colin L. Powell and Mrs. Alma J. Powell are recognized as 2015 Honorary Committee Members. Washington Redskin quarterback, Robert Griffin III, whose parents both served in the United States Army, will be a featured speaker, and entertainment will be provided by Grammy Award-winning R&B recording artist, dance music entertainer and actor, Chris Brown.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the National Capital Area "A Cinderella Ball" and the tenth anniversary of The House, Inc. I thank the Student Leadership Center for its tireless efforts on behalf of

teens in our community and its dedication to creating brighter futures for the youth of Prince William County, Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO RILEY WEEHLER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Mr. Riley Weehler for winning two state championships at the Iowa High School Rodeo state finals on June 5, 2015. Riley is the son of Neil and Jill Weehler from Maloy, Iowa.

Riley placed first in tie down calf roping and partnered with Payden Dawson from Maryville, MO to capture the team roping crown. His win is the culmination of many years of long practices and competitions throughout his high school career. He has qualified for the 67th National Finals Rodeo in Rock Springs, Wyoming on July 12–18.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Riley Weehler on a job well done, and wishing him nothing but continued success at the National Rodeo Finals and his future in collegiate rodeo.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on July 10, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Roll Call #431—AYE.

Roll Call #432—NO.

Roll Call #433—AYE.

HONORING KEVIN SUTHERLAND

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend, Kevin Sutherland, a young man whose always cheerful personality, gentle nature and caring spirit touched all of us who knew him. Kevin was taken from us much, much too soon this past July 4th.

Kevin Sutherland was born and grew up in Trumbull, Connecticut, to Theresa and Douglas Sutherland. Kevin first caught the political bug when he joined his father collecting petition signatures door-to-door. The early political exposure proved to have a powerful effect on Kevin. He became involved in local Connecticut politics and quickly embraced the importance and value of personally engaging in public service.

At just the age of 15, Kevin further honed his political skills by working in Congressman Jim Himes' 2008 and 2010 congressional campaigns in Bridgeport, Connecticut up until his graduation from Trumbull High School in 2009. Following his passion for political activ-

ism, Kevin attended American University in Washington, D.C., the epicenter of political action.

At American University, Kevin was active in student government and served as Student Government Secretary for two years. In addition, Kevin discovered his passion and talent for communications and design. He applied his time and talents politically by serving as the Communications Director of the American University College Democrats and also served as the New Media Coordinator for the Kennedy Political Union.

After graduating from American University in 2013, Kevin took his passion for politics and began working professionally with the Lone Star Project, a Democratic political research and communications organization. Kevin's hard work and talent for graphic design then led him to New Blue Interactive, where he could apply his political passion and experience to many Democratic candidates and causes.

Kevin's love and gift for graphic design and photography filled his spare time as well. Kevin embraced living in Washington, D.C. by capturing the sights and sounds of our beautiful Capital city. When traveling to other places, Kevin would return with the essence of his travels captured visually. He graciously shared his work and, in doing so, not only showcased his talent but let us all share in the joy of his experience. It is a gift he gave without knowing and one that we will always cherish just as we cherish knowing this wonderful young man.

In honor and remembrance of Kevin Sutherland, whose warm and kind heart touched many lives, I submit this statement.

CONGRATULATING HERMANN HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS BRONZE MEDAL AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hermann High School on its Bronze Medal Award as a top Missouri High School from U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Hermann High School for a job well done.

HUMBLE ISD NAMED WINNER OF H-E-B EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS PROGRAM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Humble Independent School District (ISD) was named the 2015 Large District winner of the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards program. H-E-B is a state-wide grocery chain in Texas.

Humble ISD competed alongside six large districts statewide to win the cash prize of